

Calendar No. 305

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 2132**

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2025

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JANUARY 28, 2026

Reported by Mr. GRASSLEY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Conflict-free Leaving
5 Employment and Activity Restrictions Path Act” or the
6 “CLEAR Path Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) Congress and the executive branch have rec-
 4 ognized the importance of preventing and mitigating
 5 the potential for conflicts of interest following gov-
 6 ernment service, including with respect to senior
 7 United States officials working on behalf of foreign
 8 governments; and

9 (2) Congress and the executive branch should
 10 jointly evaluate the status and scope of post-employ-
 11 ment restrictions.

12 **SEC. 3. POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICIALS**
 13 **IN POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CON-**
 14 **FIRMATION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 207 of title 18, United
 16 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 17 lowing:

18 “(m) EXTENDED POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS
 19 FOR OFFICIALS IN POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CON-
 20 FIRMATION.—

21 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

22 “(A) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term
 23 ‘country of concern’ has the meaning given the
 24 term in section 1(m) of the State Department
 25 Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
 26 2651a(m)).

1 ~~“(B) FOREIGN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—~~

2 The term ‘foreign governmental entity’ has the
3 meaning given the term in section 1(m) of the
4 State Department Basic Authorities Act of
5 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)).

6 ~~“(C) REPRESENT.—~~The term ‘represent’

7 does not include representation by an attorney,
8 who is duly licensed and authorized to provide
9 legal advice in a United States jurisdiction, of
10 a person or entity in a legal capacity or for the
11 purposes of rendering legal advice.

12 ~~“(D) SENATE-CONFIRMED POSITION.—~~The

13 term ‘Senate-confirmed position’ means a posi-
14 tion in a department or agency of the executive
15 branch of the United States for which appoint-
16 ment is required to be made by the President,
17 by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-
18 ate.

19 ~~“(2) AGENCY HEADS, DEPUTY HEADS, AND~~

20 OTHER POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CONFIRMA-

21 TION.—With respect to a person serving as the head

22 or deputy head of, or serving in any Senate-con-

23 firmed position in, a department or agency of the ex-

24 ecutive branch of the United States, the restrictions

25 described in subsection (f)(1) shall apply to any such

1 person who knowingly represents, aids, or advises a
 2 foreign governmental entity of a country of concern
 3 before an officer or employee of the executive or leg-
 4 islative branch of the United States with the intent
 5 to influence a decision of the officer or employee in
 6 carrying out his or her official duties at any time
 7 after the termination of the person's service in that
 8 position.

9 “(3) NOTICE OF RESTRICTIONS.—Any person
 10 subject to the restrictions under this subsection shall
 11 be provided notice of these restrictions by the rel-
 12 evant department or agency—

13 “(A) upon appointment by the President;

14 and

15 “(B) upon termination of service with the
 16 relevant department or agency.

17 “(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The restrictions under
 18 this subsection shall apply only to persons who are
 19 appointed by the President to the positions ref-
 20 erenced in this section on or after the date of enact-
 21 ment of the Conflict-free Leaving Employment and
 22 Activity Restrictions Path Act.

23 “(5) SUNSET.—The restrictions under this sub-
 24 section shall expire on the date that is 5 years after

1 the date of enactment of the Conflict-free Leaving
 2 Employment and Activity Restrictions Path Act.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(m) of the
 4 State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22
 5 U.S.C. 2651a(m)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as
 7 paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
 9 lowing:

10 “(6) RELATION TO GOVERNMENT-WIDE RE-
 11 STRICTIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to a
 12 person by reason of the person’s service in a position
 13 referenced in this subsection if the person is subject
 14 to the restrictions under section 207(m) of title 18,
 15 United States Code, by reason of the same service.”.

16 **SEC. 4. MECHANISM TO AMEND DEFINITION OF “COUNTRY**
 17 **OF CONCERN”.**

18 Section 1(m) of the State Department Basic Authori-
 19 ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)) is amended by in-
 20 serting after paragraph (6), as added by section 3(b), the
 21 end the following:

22 “(7) MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF ‘COUN-
 23 TRY OF CONCERN’.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
 25 State may, in consultation with the Attorney

General, propose the addition or deletion of countries described in paragraph (1)(A).

~~“(B) SUBMISSION.—Any proposal described in subparagraph (A) shall—~~

~~“(i) be submitted to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and~~

~~“(ii) become effective upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval as described in subparagraph (C).~~

~~“(C) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—~~

~~“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), the term ‘joint resolution of approval’ means only a joint resolution—~~

~~“(I) that does not have a preamble;~~

~~“(II) that includes in the matter after the resolving clause the following: ‘That Congress approves the modification of the definition of “country of concern” under section~~

1 1(m) of the State Department Basic
 2 Authorities Act of 1956, as submitted
 3 by the Secretary of State on
 4 _____; and section 1(m)(1)(A) of
 5 the State Department Basic Authori-
 6 ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
 7 2651a(m)(1)(A)) is amended by
 8 _____; the blank spaces
 9 being appropriately filled in with the
 10 appropriate date and the amendatory
 11 language required to modify the list of
 12 countries in paragraph (1)(A) of this
 13 subsection by adding or deleting 1 or
 14 more countries; and

15 “(III) the title of which is as fol-
 16 lows: ‘Joint resolution approving
 17 modifications to definition of “country
 18 of concern” under section 1(m) of the
 19 State Department Basic Authorities
 20 Act of 1956.’”

21 “(ii) REFERRAL.—

22 “(I) SENATE.—A resolution de-
 23 scribed in clause (i) that is introduced
 24 in the Senate shall be referred to the

1 Committee on Foreign Relations of
2 the Senate.

3 ~~“(H) HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-~~
4 ~~TIVES.—A resolution described in~~
5 ~~clause (i) that is introduced in the~~
6 ~~House of Representatives shall be re-~~
7 ~~ferred to the Committee on the Judi-~~
8 ~~ciary of the House of Representa-~~
9 ~~tives.”.~~

10 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

11 *This Act may be cited as the “Conflict-free Leaving*
12 *Employment and Activity Restrictions Path Act” or the*
13 *“CLEAR Path Act”.*

14 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

15 *It is the sense of Congress that—*

16 *(1) Congress and the executive branch have rec-*
17 *ognized the importance of preventing and mitigating*
18 *the potential for conflicts of interest following Govern-*
19 *ment service, including with respect to senior United*
20 *States officials working on behalf of foreign govern-*
21 *ments; and*

22 *(2) Congress and the executive branch should*
23 *jointly evaluate the status and scope of post-employ-*
24 *ment restrictions.*

1 **SEC. 3. POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICIALS**
 2 **IN POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CON-**
 3 **FIRMATION.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 207 of title 18, United
 5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(m) *EXTENDED POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS*
 7 *FOR OFFICIALS IN POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CON-*
 8 *FIRMATION.*—

9 “(1) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this subsection:

10 “(A) *COUNTRY OF CONCERN.*—The term
 11 ‘country of concern’ has the meaning given the
 12 term in section 1(m) of the State Department
 13 Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
 14 2651a(m)), except that it does not include the
 15 country described in paragraph (1)(A)(vi) of
 16 that section, as in effect on the date of enactment
 17 of the Conflict-free Leaving Employment and Ac-
 18 tivity Restrictions Path Act.

19 “(B) *FOREIGN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.*—
 20 The term ‘foreign governmental entity’ has the
 21 meaning given the term in section 1(m) of the
 22 State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956
 23 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)).

24 “(C) *REPRESENT.*—The term ‘represent’
 25 does not include representation by an attorney,
 26 who is duly licensed and authorized to provide

1 *legal advice in a United States jurisdiction, of a*
 2 *person or entity in a legal capacity or for the*
 3 *purposes of rendering legal advice.*

4 “(D) *SENATE-CONFIRMED POSITION.*—*The*
 5 *term ‘Senate-confirmed position’ means a posi-*
 6 *tion in a department or agency of the executive*
 7 *branch of the United States for which appoint-*
 8 *ment is required to be made by the President, by*
 9 *and with the advice and consent of the Senate.*

10 “(2) *AGENCY HEADS, DEPUTY HEADS, AND*
 11 *OTHER POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CONFIRMA-*
 12 *TION.*—*Any person who serves in a position requiring*
 13 *appointment by the President as head or deputy head*
 14 *of, or serves in any other Senate-confirmed position*
 15 *in, a department or agency of the executive branch of*
 16 *the United States, and who, at any time after the ter-*
 17 *mination of the person’s service in that position,*
 18 *knowingly represents, aids, or advises a foreign gov-*
 19 *ernmental entity of a country of concern before an of-*
 20 *ficer or employee of the executive or legislative branch*
 21 *of the United States with the intent to influence a de-*
 22 *cision of the officer or employee in carrying out his*
 23 *or her official duties shall be punished as provided in*
 24 *section 216.*

1 “(3) *NOTICE OF RESTRICTIONS.*—*Any person*
 2 *subject to the restrictions under this subsection shall*
 3 *be provided notice of these restrictions by the relevant*
 4 *department or agency—*

5 “(A) *upon appointment by the President;*
 6 *and*

7 “(B) *upon termination of service with the*
 8 *relevant department or agency.*

9 “(4) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—

10 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in*
 11 *subparagraph (B), the restrictions under this*
 12 *subsection shall apply only to persons who are*
 13 *appointed by the President to the positions ref-*
 14 *erenced in this subsection on or after the date of*
 15 *enactment of the Conflict-free Leaving Employ-*
 16 *ment and Activity Restrictions Path Act.*

17 “(B) *GRACE PERIOD FOR ADDED COUN-*
 18 *TRIES OF CONCERN.*—*If the definition of the*
 19 *term ‘country of concern’ under subsection (m) of*
 20 *section 1 of the State Department Basic Authori-*
 21 *ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is modified*
 22 *in accordance with paragraph (7) of that sub-*
 23 *section by adding a country to the list of coun-*
 24 *tries described in paragraph (1)(A) of that sub-*
 25 *section, in the case of any person who is ap-*

1 pointed by the President to a position referenced
2 in this subsection on or after the date of enact-
3 ment of the Conflict-free Leaving Employment
4 and Activity Restrictions Path Act and who
5 knowingly represents, aids, or advises a foreign
6 governmental entity of a country added to the
7 list of countries described in paragraph (1)(A) of
8 such subsection (m), the restrictions under this
9 subsection shall apply to such person on and
10 after the date that is 30 days after the date of
11 enactment of a relevant joint resolution of ap-
12 proval as described in paragraph (7)(C) of such
13 subsection (m) adding that country to the list of
14 countries described in paragraph (1)(A) of such
15 subsection (m).

16 “(5) SUNSET.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date
18 that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the
19 Conflict-free Leaving Employment and Activity
20 Restrictions Path Act, the restrictions under
21 paragraph (2) shall not apply to any person ap-
22 pointed by the President, on or after such date
23 of enactment, to a position referenced in this
24 subsection, without regard to the date on which

1 *the service of such person in such position termi-*
 2 *nates.*

3 “(B) *NO EFFECT ON CONDUCT BEFORE SUN-*
 4 *SET.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be con-*
 5 *strued to limit the applicability of paragraph (2)*
 6 *with respect to any conduct by a person ap-*
 7 *pointed by the President to a position referenced*
 8 *in this subsection that occurred before the date*
 9 *that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the*
 10 *Conflict-free Leaving Employment and Activity*
 11 *Restrictions Path Act.”.*

12 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(m) of the*
 13 *State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.*
 14 *2651a(m)) is amended—*

15 (1) *by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as*
 16 *paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively; and*

17 (2) *by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-*
 18 *lowing:*

19 “(6) *RELATION TO GOVERNMENT-WIDE RESTRIC-*
 20 *TIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to a person*
 21 *by reason of the person’s service in a position ref-*
 22 *erenced in this subsection if the person is subject to*
 23 *the restrictions under section 207(m) of title 18,*
 24 *United States Code, by reason of the same service.”.*

1 **SEC. 4. MECHANISM TO AMEND DEFINITION OF “COUNTRY**
 2 **OF CONCERN”.**

3 *Section 1(m) of the State Department Basic Authori-*
 4 *ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)) is amended by insert-*
 5 *ing after paragraph (6), as added by section 3(b), the fol-*
 6 *lowing:*

7 “(7) *MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF ‘COUNTRY*
 8 *OF CONCERN’.*—

9 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of State*
 10 *may, in consultation with the Attorney General,*
 11 *propose the addition or deletion of countries de-*
 12 *scribed in paragraph (1)(A).*

13 “(B) *SUBMISSION.*—*Any proposal described*
 14 *in subparagraph (A) shall—*

15 “(i) *be submitted to the Chairman and*
 16 *Ranking Member of the Committee on For-*
 17 *oreign Relations of the Senate and the Chair-*
 18 *man and Ranking Member of the Com-*
 19 *mittee on the Judiciary of the House of*
 20 *Representatives; and*

21 “(ii) *become effective upon enactment*
 22 *of a joint resolution of approval as de-*
 23 *scribed in subparagraph (C).*

24 “(C) *JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.*—

25 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*For purposes of*
 26 *subparagraph (B)(ii), the term ‘joint resolu-*

tion of approval' means only a joint resolution—

“(I) that does not have a preamble;

“(II) that includes in the matter after the resolving clause the following: ‘That Congress approves the modification of the definition of “country of concern” under section 1(m) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as submitted by the Secretary of State on _____; and section 1(m)(1)(A) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)(1)(A)) is amended by _____.’, the blank spaces being appropriately filled in with the appropriate date and the amendatory language required to modify the list of countries in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection by adding or deleting 1 or more countries; and

“(III) the title of which is as follows: ‘Joint resolution approving modifications to definition of “country

1 *of concern” under section 1(m) of the*
 2 *State Department Basic Authorities*
 3 *Act of 1956.’*

4 “(ii) *REFERRAL.*—

5 “*(I) SENATE.*—A resolution de-
 6 scribed in clause (i) that is introduced
 7 in the Senate shall be referred to the
 8 Committee on Foreign Relations of the
 9 Senate.

10 “*(II) HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-*
 11 *TIVES.*—A resolution described in
 12 clause (i) that is introduced in the
 13 House of Representatives shall be re-
 14 ferred to the Committee on the Judici-
 15 ary of the House of Representatives.”.

Calendar No. 305

119TH CONGRESS
2^D Session

S. 2132

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and for other purposes.

JANUARY 28, 2026

Reported with an amendment